Appln. No.: 09/471,981
Amendment Dated February 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2003

MTS-3181US

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the opportunity to discuss the claims with her on December 30, 2003, and for her helpful suggestions.

Section 103 Rejections:

Claims 3, 39, 42, 44-50, 58, 60-63, 71, 76 and 81-82 have been rejected as being obvious in view of Bartky and Takuchi.

In order to expedite allowance of this application, Applicants have now cancelled claims 3, 39, 42, 44-50, 58, 60-63, 71, 76, and 81- 82. In addition, Applicants have also cancelled claim 70.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 1, 4, 5, 40, 41, 43, 51, 53, 54 and 56 have been allowed.

Objected-To Claims:

Claims 52, 55, 57, 59, 65-69, 72-75 and 77-80 have been objected-to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have now rewritten claims 52, 55, 57, 59, 65-69, 72-75 and 77-80 into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion:

Claims 1, 4-5, 40-41, 43, 51-57, 59, 65-69, 72-75 and 77-80 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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AR/JJJ/kc

Dated: February 3, 2004

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Danielle Murphy